

ARTICLES

OF CP21924/9

ENQUIRY

CONCERNING

Matters Ecclesiastical.

Exhibited to the Church-wardens of every Parish within the Archdeaconry of Lincoln, for their better Direction in their Presentments, in the Visitation of the Reverend George Reynolds, D. L., Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Lincoln.

The Form of the OATH, to be Administred to the Chuch-Wardens.

YOU shall swear, That you will truly and faithfully Execute the Office of Church-Warden within your Parish, and that you will, according to the best of your Skill and Knowledge, present such Things and Persons as are presentable by the Ecclesiastical Law of this REALM

So help you GOD

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ARTICLES of ENQUIRY

CONCERNING *Matters Ecclesiastical.*

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chapels, and the Furnitures belonging to them
IS your parish Church or Chapel, with the Chancel and Steeple in good and sufficient Repair, are the Seats convenient for kneeling, and sitting The whole kept clean and decent.

II Hath any part thereof been pulled down or defaced, any of the Bells, Lead, Timber, or Utensils imbezzled, and by whom.

III Have you a large Bible of the last Translation, two books of Common-Prayer for your Minister and Clerk, the book of Homilies allowed by authority, a Book of articles, Constitutions, and Canons ecclesiastical, a Register Book in Parchment for Christenings, Marriages, and Burials, all well bound, a table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, and a book for the Church-wardens Accompts.

IV Is there a decent font of Stone, with a Cover, a decent Communion Table covered with a Carpit of Silk, cloth, or Stuff, in time of devine Service, and another covering of white Linnen at the time of administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with a fair linnen Cloth to cover the Elements, a Patin for the Bread, and Chalice for the Wine, with a cover, and one or more Flagons, decently preserved, and kept for this Use only.

V Is there a convenient Desk for the Minister to read Divine Service in, a Pulpit, with a cloth or Cushion for the same, and a decent Surplice for the use of the Minister in his Publick Administrations, and a bier and Hearse-cloth, provided at the Charge of the Parish.

VI Are the Books and other Furniture above-mention'd, safely and decently kept, according to the Canon.

TIT. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, Glebe, and Tithes

I **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls pales, or Rails decently kept, and the Trees therein preserved. Hath any part been seperated from it, or any new Door or passage made into it.

II Are the House and out-howles belonging to your Minister in Re-



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or have any of them been defaced or pulled down without Licence.
II. Have you a perfect Terra of all the glebe Lands, with a true Account of all yearly Profits belonging to your Church. And do you know of any Incroachments upon the rights of your Minister.

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. **D**Oth your Minister, in the several publick offices of the Church use the Form and words preſcrib'd in the book of common Prayer with the Rites and ceremonies appointed in that Book, ſo far as you know. And doth he uſually wear the Surplice in ſuch his Adminiſtration.

II. Doth your Minister reſide in his Parſonage or Vicarage-houſe, and Preach every Lord's Day, unleſs lawfully hindred. And doth he frequently adminiſter the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

III. Doth he diligently inſtruct the Youth in the church Catechiſm, obſerve the ſeveral Feſtivals and Faſts of the Church, and give publick notice of the ſame.

IV. Doth he neglect or reſuſe to viſit the Sick, or delay to Baptize Infants in danger of Death, or baptize any publickly without Sureties or without the ſign of the Croſs.

V. Hath he married any Perſon in private-houſes, or in the Church without Publication of Bans, unleſs by licence duly obtained.

VI. Is he of a godly, ſober, and peaceable Converſation, becoming a Miniſter of Jeſus Chriſt.

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

ARE there any perſon in your Pariſh who reſort not to your pariſh Church nor any Aſſembly, pretending to worſhip God elſewhere.

II. Are there any who do not behave themſelves reverently, orderly, and decently in the time of devine Service and Sermon.

III. Are there any who profeſs to live in the communion of the Church of England, who reſuſe to bring their children to Church to be baptized, unleſs in caſe of extreme Danger; any who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of Age fit to receive it, or any who neglect to cauſe their children or Servants to come to Church to be inſtructed in the Catechiſm, in order to their being confirm'd and admitted to the Communion.

IV. Are there any who live as Man and wife and are known or ſuſpected not to be married, or any married within the Degrees prohibited.

V. Do any married Women in your Pariſh reſuſe to make their publick Thankſgiving in the Church after the Deliverance from the danger of Children, or to pay their accuſtom'd Offerings to your Miniſter.

VI. Doth any Person therein lie under a common Fame or Suspicion of Adultery, Fornication or Incest, are there any common drunkards, Swearers or Blasphemers of God's Name, or, any that are noted to be filthy railers, Railers, Sowers of sedition, Faction, or Discord among their Neighbours.

VII. Do any follow their ordinary Vocation, or Labour on the Lord's Day, or, any Inn-keeper or Victualler suffer Persons to Tipple or Game in their Houses on that day, or, any who use unlawful Exercises or pastimes on that Day.

VIII. Are there any who refuse to pay their *Easter Offering*, or other Duties belonging to your Minister, or, that neglect or refuse to pay their Proportion to the Rates set for repair of your Church or Chapel, or, any thing thereunto belonging.

IX. Are any last Wills and Testaments concealed, and not proved before the Ordinary, or any Goods of the Deceased administered without lawful Authority, or any Legacies unpaid or mis-applied.

TIT. V.

Concerning Church-Wardens.

ARE the church-wardens of your parish duly chosen and have the former and latter church-wardens given up their accounts according to Law.

TIT. VI.

Concerning Parish Clerks

HAVE you a parish Clerk chose by your Minister, aged twenty one years at least. Is he of Ability to perform his duty, in Reading and singing, doth he duly attend your Minister in all devine Services in the Church and is he allowed by the Ordinary. Do any withhold his wages from him

TIT. VII.

Concerning Schools and School-masters.

Doth any man keep a private School in your Parish who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinary. is your School-master a diligent and Sober Man. Doth he teach his Scholars the Church Catechism, and cause to repair to Church on Sundays or Holidays when there is devine Service, and see that they there behave themselves quietly and reverently.

If you know of any Default or Crime of Ecclesiastical Cognizance, not express'd in these Articles, you are to present the same, and therein take the Assistance of your Minister.

FINIS.